3rd August 1932]

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Proposals for the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act.

* 65. *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state for how long the proposals of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board for the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act have been under the consideration of the Government and when they propose to undertake legislation on the subject?

A.—A comprehensive amendment Bill was drafted by the President, Hindu Religious Endowments Board, and sent to Government in November 1927. The amendments were examined and a draft Bill was prepared towards the end of 1930. Some of the provisions therein were embodied in the amending Acts passed as Act V of 1929, Act IV of 1930 and Act XI of 1931. The other provisions of the Bill contemplate—

(1) provincializing the Hindu Religious Endowments Board and the audit staff,

(2) splitting the Hindu Religious Endowments Board into an executive board and one or two judicial commissioners,

(3) placing excepted temples on a par with ordinary temples in regard to the control over their budgets.

It is not possible to provincialize the Hindu Religious Endowments Board owing to the present financial position of the Government. Power has, however, been taken under Act XI of 1931 to enable the Hindu Religious Endowments Board and District Committees to recover their contributions through the Collector as arrears of land revenue, which, it is hoped, will facilitate collections. The other two points are under consideration of the Government.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—" May I know with reference to (*a*), when the Government expect to come to conclusion ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU:—" The question is now placed before the Local Advisory Committee which is to meet again to-morrow."

List of temple committees, active and defunct.

* 66. *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) which of the temple committees are functioning now;

(*b*) which committees have been wound up; and

(*c*) whether the arrears of contributions due from temples are being collected through the revenue authorities, and if so, in which districts ?